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The Daily Novelette

Love's Radio

By Clarises Machie

"You wouldn't have wanted them—"
"I read enough—I saw the scraps—
the came flying to me in spite of you and, Henry, I'll forgive you, on one written letter and dropped the fragments into the waste basket. "I'll write one more and if it doesn't pull through—I'll quit. But there's a jinx on my asking Adele to share my ranch and rations!"

If you had asked Henry Blake why he didn't walk and so Henry Blake why

he didn't walk right up to Adele and put the question to her paintblank, he would have told you solemnly that every time he looked into Adele's blue eyes he simply forgot everything he ever knew. "Completely razzled," he would add grimly.

Now he was writing his sixteenth letter. His fountain pen labored stutteringly over the task, just as Henry's thoughts stuttered in hurried confusion.

ingly over the task, just as Henry sthoughts stuttered in hurried confusion.

"Dearest Adele"—"Adele Darling"—pshaw! "Dearest"—— With a renaing of paper the sixteenth letter followed its fellows. Henry g'ared at it maliciously. Then, overcome with a sudden fear that the inquisitive cook. Ah Sing, smight discover and hoard these scraps of paper, so that he might pursue his slow study of the "Melican langwidg." Henry scratched the fragments out of the basket and stuffed them into his pockets, to burn at the first available apportunity. Screwing the top on to his fountain pen, he went out into the late afternoon sunshine determined to find some other way to tell his love to Adele before one of his rivals rode boldly away with the pretriest and most desirable girl in the country. "Hootay" crowed Henry, and he rushed to the telephone. The Barton ranch, five miles away, was only one of six on that party line, and as Adele's voice came singing over the wire Henry heard four subdued clicks as the other subscribers listened in. "Hello," sang Adele. "That you. Henry?"

"Yes," said Henry, bot with embar-

Henry?"
"Yes," said Henry, bot with embarrassment. "I wanted to talk to you

rassment. "I wanted to talk to you about something—"
"Oh, yes!" invited Adele.
"I wanted to talk to you, only I can't because of this confounded bunch of radio fiends listenin' in—three bave hung up. Adele—guess the other one is bound to bear—must be Mrs. Fancher—thank you, ma'am," as the fourth receiver clicked.
"Oh, Henry—you are too dreadful," laughed Adele. "Let the poor things listen in if they want to! Suppose you lived on a ranch miles from every-body—"

body—"I do," yelled Henry.
"Of course—and what were you going to ask me, Henry?" she inquired sweetly. Henry could not see her tender smile, nor could he even dream that she sent him a stlent kiss into the mouth less.

mouthpiece.

"Ask you—why, Adele, I just wanted to know if you wouldn't like to ride over to Red Butte and meet me at the waterfall. I'll bring over some

the waterfall. I'll bring over some roastin' ears and we can have a little fire and see the sunset."

"Lovely!" cried Adele. "I will make some sandwiches and we will meet at the trail crossing. So long!"

Henry hung up the receiver with a baffled look in his fine eyes. "I give up." he muttered grimly, as he went to the coral to get his horse. "I expect some honest-to-goodness man, with a real spine, instead of a weak-kneed, jelly-fish critter like yours truly, will ride in and aske her pointblank and marry her right before my eyes. Serves me right, too." He bent bishead to the black horse, who nuzzled his sunburned face lovingly.

Ah Sing came out with the roasting ears and coffee pot in a sack, which he deftly fastened to Blake's saddle.

"So long!" said Henry, as he rode away.

"Slolong—good luck!" called the

away. "Slolong-good luck!" called the Henry blushed as he rode out of the gate. He stared straight ahead when he passed the Fanche place, for Mrs. Fancher was sitting on the stoon of the distant ranch house. There wasn't the distant ranch house. There wasn't any use getting mad at folks, he told himself. They were kind-hearted neighbors and friends, and would do anything in the world to help each other. He would stop in and apologize to Mrs. Fancher on his way home. He turned his horse into the old trail and role rapidly until he came to the trail or the contract of the trail or the contract of the trail or the came to the trail or th

rapidly until he came to the transcrossing.

"Slow poke!" greeted Adele from the shade of a cottonwood.

Henry grinned sheepishly, not aware that he looked like a very handsome schoolboy in his riding clothes. Adele flashed a glance at him from under long lashes as they rode side by side. Her soft color rose under the scrutiny of his sidewise glance.

Her soft color rose under the scrutiny of his stdewise glance.

"I am starved." she said vivaciously.

"I put up heaps of sandwiches, ham and lettuce—like 'em. Henry?"

"You bet!" fervently. "I've gor roastin' cars and coffee, and a box of chocolates I was intending to bring over to you Sunday night only—"he grew hot and uncomfortable as he hesitated.

"nly what?" she reproached him

"nly what?" she reproached him with her eyes, "I waited and wait-

"I got as far as the gate-I saw Graham's horse tied out there—so I knew you'd have company."

"Goose—Lindy Graham came to see Ethel. Nobody came to see me." "Gosh!" exclaimed Henry, "If that isn't my luck!"

"Gosh!" exclaimed Henry. "If that isn't my luck!"

"Here we are, Henry—doesn't the sky book wonderful—you make the fire and I'll fix the corn." They hobbed the horses and Henry set about making a small fire on an old campfire site—a circle of stones, set in a shallow hole scooped out the earth. Watching the blazing fire. Henry thought of the torn letters in his pocket. Here was an opportunity to burn them up, while Adele worked demurely over the corn. It was one of life's little ironies, he thought, that he must burn in her presence those stuttering letters that were addressed to her, and which he was too shy to finish, though his love for her looked out of his eyes and flittered through his most casual words when he addressed her.

He dropped a double handful of the torn paper on the fire. A mischievous breeze whirled a few of them toward Adele. They skimmed across the grass and fluttered about her little brown levels.

and fluttered about her little brown

boots.

Henry muttered under his breath as he dropped the remainder of the papers on the fire and despairingly saw a third of them fly over to Adele.

"What are you trying to do, Henry?" she asked over her shoulder.

"Just burning up some—letters.
The wind's acting up like the—very dickens—here, I'll pick them up!" He sprang forward to resome the pieces. sprang forward to rescue the pieces of his love letters, but Adele had spied her own name, and her little brown fingers were nimble. She clutched them tightly to her breast,
"The corn is ready, Henry," she
said cooly, though her eyes were like

stars.

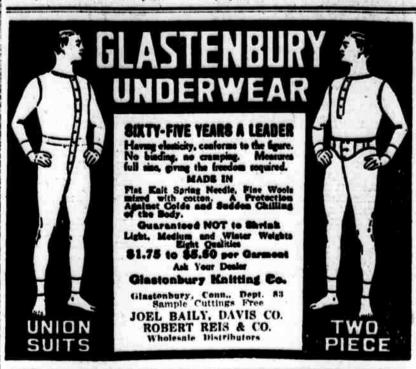
"The corn? All right." he said sullenly and walked away to the fire. He went about the preparations doggedly, not daring to look at Adele, who sat apart, staring at the glowing face of Rei Butte bathed in the sunset blory.

"Supper's ready," he said in an unsetsal vaice.

natural voice. "Come here," said Adele. He obeyed his face pale with suppressed emotion, "Henry Blake," seid Adele, lifting ber

STILL EXPERTS COME HIGH

danning eyes to his, "I want the rest of those letters!"
"In the fire ashes—burned up," said Henry curtly.
"They are mine—I saw my name—you have written them to me—you had no right to tear them up." Dry Agents Told Prisoner's Salary Was \$40 a Day



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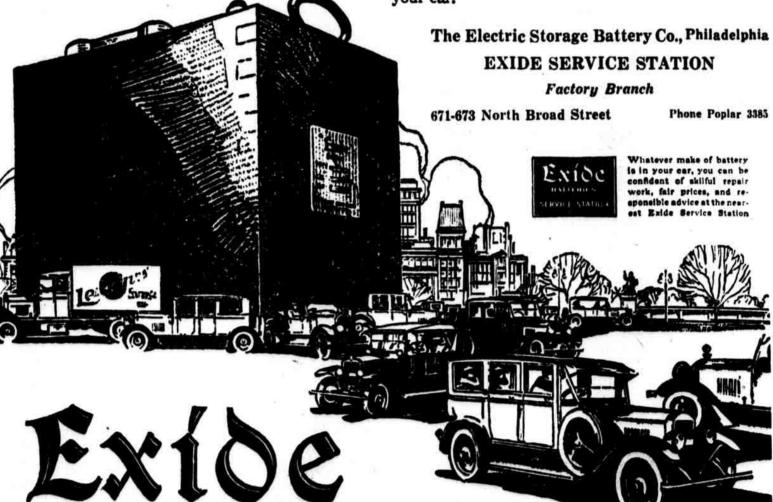
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